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ABSTRACT

This report begins by describing the American Library Association (ALA) Library/Book Fellows program, which began with a grant from the U.S. Information Agency in 1986. The program has a threefold purpose: (1) to increase international understanding through the establishment of professional and personal relationships and the accomplishment of mutual goals; (2) to promote international sharing of resources and increase access to U.S. materials in the host country; and (3) to enable U.S. librarians and publishers to enrich and broaden their career experience through a short period of overseas service. The bulk of the report consists of profiles of the 1989-90 fellows highlighting their overseas experiences. The fellows are: (1) Dorothy C. Woodson from the State University of New York at Buffalo, who went to the University of Swaziland; (2) Katherine Van de Vate from Princeton University (New Jersey), who went to the Asad National Library in Damascus, Syria; (3) Alicia Sabatine from Jefferson County Public School (Colorado), who went to the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica; (4) Henry F. Raine from the Folger Shakespeare Library (District of Columbia), who went to the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington; (5) Linda E. Williamson from the University of Illinois, who went to University College Dublin Library (Ireland); (6) Faye Powell from Portland State University (Oregon), who went to the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad, India; (7) Karen J. Starr from Oregon State University, who went to the Norwegian School of Library and Information Science in Oslo; and (8) Barbara Kile from Rice University (Texas), who went to the National Central Library in Taipei, Taiwan. Individual projects focused on archival materials, library automation, and cataloging and classification. (MES)

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The Information Ambassadors: The 1989-90 Library/Book Fellows

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"In a world divided by ideology, by trade barriers, by military threats and nuclear fears, we librarians are not powerless. We are the ambassadors of an indivisible world of culture and books and ideas. Unfortunately, we are not plenipotentiary. But there is no country in the world where librarians cannot make some small progress toward removing the boundaries and lowering the barriers which separate cultures and which are sponsored by citizens or by governments.

Every librarian, regardless of his government's policy, has the opportunity, if he has the courage, to open the avenues of books and ideas a little wider.... We must try to make the world of books more open — so that men and women everywhere may breathe freely the uncensored open air of ideas." Daniel J. Boorstin, *The Indivisible World: Libraries and the Myth of Cultural Exchange* (Washington, D.C.: The Library of Congress, 1985)

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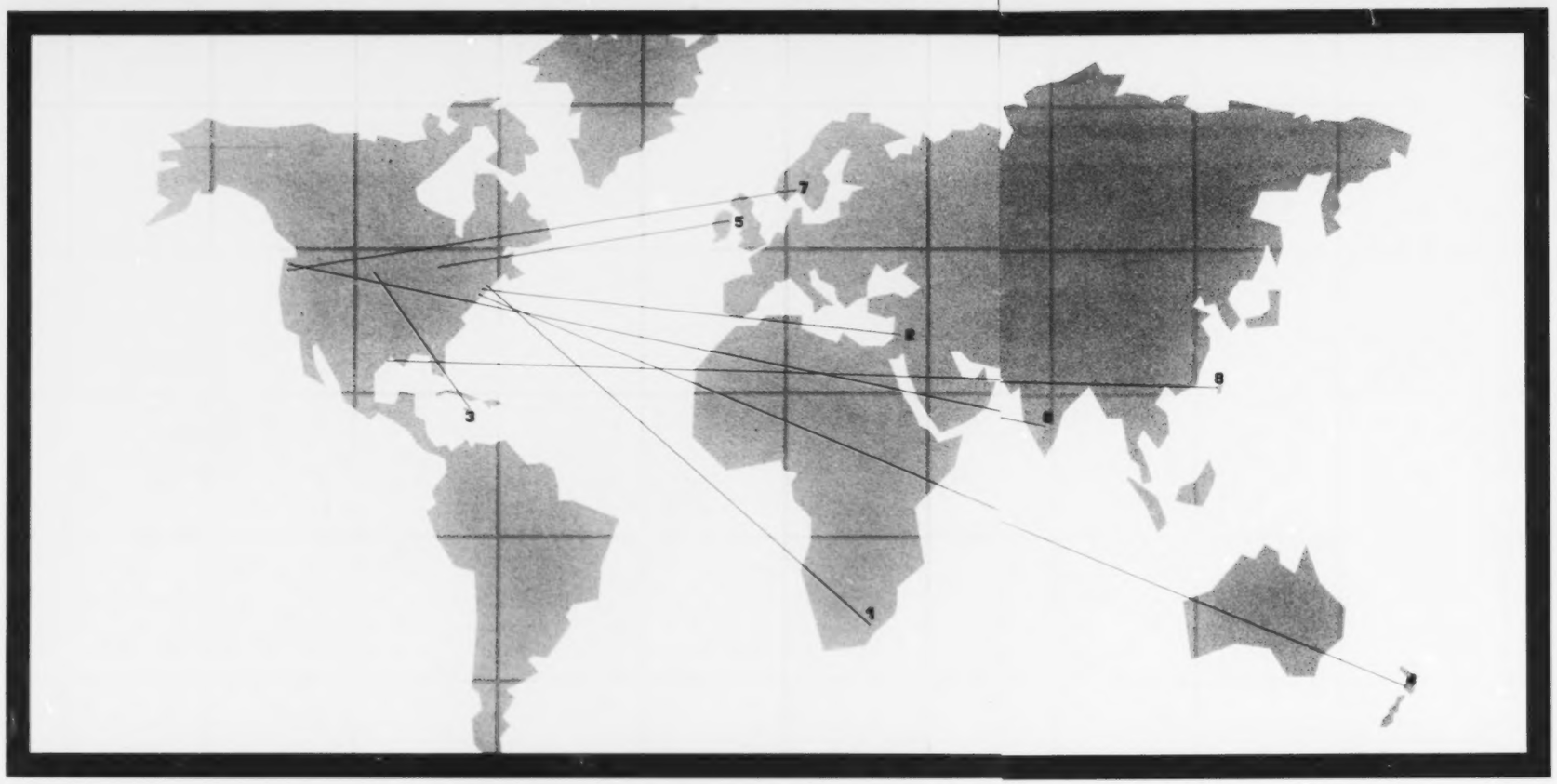


1. Dorothy C. Woodson
Buffalo, New York
Kwaluseni, Swaziland

2. Katherine Van de Vate
Princeton, New Jersey
Damascus, Syria

3. Alicia Sabatine
Golden, Colorado
Kingston, Jamaica

4. Henry F. Raine
Washington, D.C.
Wellington, New Zealand

5. Linda E. Williamson
Chicago, Illinois
Dublin, Ireland

6. Faye Powell
Portland, Oregon
Hyderabad, India

7. Karen J. Starr
Corvallis, Oregon
Oslo, Norway

8. Barbara G. Kile
Houston, Texas
Taipei, Taiwan

Purpose

The Library/Book Fellows Program began in 1986 with a grant to the American Library Association from the United States Information Agency (USIA). The program's purpose is threefold: (1) to increase international understanding through the establishment of professional and personal relationships and the accomplishment of mutual goals, (2) to promote international sharing of resources and to increase access to U.S. materials in the host country, and (3) to enable U.S. librarians and publishers to enrich and broaden their career experiences through a short period of overseas service.

Fellows are given the opportunity to share their expertise with librarians and publishers from other countries and to learn from their overseas colleagues' experiences. When the Fellows return home, they bring increased awareness and understanding, and they share that understanding with their U.S. colleagues.

The Participants

The third (1989-90) class of eight Fellows was chosen from hundreds of applicants in a demanding process seeking U.S. library and publishing professionals to initiate and carry out projects in other nations. Their assignments lasted from five to fifteen months in such diverse posts as Syria, Norway, Jamaica, Swaziland, India, New Zealand, Taiwan, and Ireland. The Fellows' projects, developed in cooperation with host country institutions and USIA were wide-ranging and included teaching cataloging and classification in a host national library, training library school students and faculty in automated information retrieval, developing an American Studies social sciences collection, organizing host institution U.S. documents collections, and introducing rare book cataloging to a national bibliographic network.

Each Fellow's experience was unique and posed exciting and unusual challenges as well as unforeseen obstacles. But all of the Fellows gained new perspectives in the process of sharing materials, ideas, and information with their overseas colleagues.

The following profiles highlight the experiences of the 1989-90 Fellows. For information on the Library/Book Fellow positions available for 1991-92, please see *American Libraries*, February 1991, p 154.

Dorothy C. Woodson

Social Sciences Subject Specialist, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York.
Destination: University of Swaziland, Kwalunesi, Swaziland

The end-of-summer deep blues and haunting purples of Swaziland's river gorges and ancient mountains were familiar sights to Library Fellow Dorothy Woodson. Eighteen years before, she had come to this newly independent country as a Peace Corps volunteer to teach geography and assist in the library of the University of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Her return to Africa in January 1990 was an emotional homecoming, made more affecting by numerous meetings with people she had known there years ago.

Woodson's fellowship project at the now renamed University of Swaziland (UNISWA) was a compelling one: to help this young nation reclaim its lost pre-Independence documents heritage. Tangled relations among the Swazis, a Zulu people, and the British, Portuguese, Afrikaners, and other Africans characterized the history of this tiny kingdom until it received its independence from Britain in 1968. A land-locked country in southern Africa, Swaziland is one of the few remaining monarchies on the continent, with a king in his early twenties descended from a venerable line of rulers.

Over the years, thousands of early records about the kingdom and its people, including anthropologists' research, accounts of missionary groups, photographs, maps, and other materials, have been deposited in private collections and libraries the world over–particularly in South Africa, Britain and the U.S. Local scholars have been forced to go abroad to research their own history.

Library Fellow Woodson's aims during her year-long appointment were to first identify materials on pre-Independence Swaziland in U.S. libraries and institutions, and arrange for their duplication and/or transfer to UNISWA. In Swaziland, she would work with the Special Collections Department of the University library to develop the Swaziana Collection and help organize and process materials already owned by the department.

Through previous research in African Studies, Woodson had developed an extensive network of librarian colleagues at major Africana collections in the U.S. and the U.K. After completing a refresher course in Swaziland history, she spent the autumn of 1989 in the U.S., tracking down Swazi materials through correspondence with libraries, research collections in the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution, groups such as the American Committee on Africa, missionary societies, and individual scholars.

The results of these initial contacts were gratifying. The Church of the Nazarene, the Evangelical Alliance Mission, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church, missionary groups active in Swaziland from an early date, sent the Library Fellow copies of many rare and unique archival materials. Other collections and contacts surfaced through advertisements in African Studies publications, the African Studies Association annual meeting, database searches, and word-of-mouth.

In preparation for the Swaziland segment of the project, Woodson gathered bibliographies to check against the UNISWA collections and arranged for the University to join the Center for Research Libraries (CRL), which administers the Cooperative Africana Microfilm Project, a vital resource for African Studies scholarship.

A key ongoing negotiation concerned the unpublished manuscripts and priceless field notes of Dr. Hilda Kuper, one of the world's leading classical anthropologists, whose major work was carried out during 50 years among the Swazis. When approached by Woodson, Dr. Kuper was enthusiastic about donating her papers to UNISWA. Woodson contacted CRL about microfilming the papers so that the originals could go to Swaziland. CRL in principal agreed, but on the condition that the collection was first organized and indexed. Finding someone to take on this challenge was the next goal.

The crucial in-country phase of the project was scheduled for mid-January to April 1990 in Manzini, Swaziland. Being transported, after five plane rides, from a Buffalo, New York, winter to the summer heat and humidity of southern Africa, was somewhat disorienting for the Library Fellow and her two young daughters. Both UNISWA University Librarian Mrs. Mathokoza Nhlapo and the American Cultural Center staff were enormously helpful: "We instantly felt as though we had a network of friends we could call upon if necessary."

Woodson was soon comfortably installed in a spacious work area in the Special Collections section of the main library at Kwaluseni, with access to the library's only computer. Aided by an assistant working at the Luyengo branch of the library, she began compiling a database of the section's holdings, using a bibliographic software program brought from the U.S.

Next, Woodson entered five important book-length Swazi bibliographies in the database, tagging the works owned by the University. The others would be acquired from either the South African Library Pretoria, or the U.S. Unfortunately, the database could not grow beyond 1,100 entries due to insufficient computer back-up. In any case,

inputting of other Swazi materials owned by UNISWA was delayed because no staff were available to inventory the collection. "Staff shortages...served as a sobering reminder to me that libraries everywhere, regardless of their size or level of technical sophistication, have very similar problems."

The archives in Manzini of the Church of the Nazarene, one of the missionary groups which had generously responded to Woodson's first inquiries in America, revealed a rich store of photographs and demographic data. Together with the Nazarene materials she had brought from the U.S., they formed a valuable local research collection for scholars.

The time she spent at the University was both rewarding and productive. Old ties were renewed, new friendships formed, and great progress was made towards returning graphic and written accounts of Swazi life to their place of origin. Virtually every item she brought from the U.S. had filled a gap in the UNISWA collection.

When Woodson left Swaziland, procedures for continuing the Special Collections database were in place, waiting only for better computer support. The library's staff were now able to input and index bibliographic records, and Woodson encouraged them to add current acquisitions and other Swaziland bibliographic citations to the database as soon as it was possible. She was able to purchase Africana materials for the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Theoretically, the final phase of this Library Fellow's project involved spending four months in the U.S. following up on collections and contact people and arranging for the photocopying and mailing of Swaziana materials to UNISWA. In reality, she predicted, "It appears as though phase three will continue indefinitely."

Seeking support for organizing and indexing the papers of Dr. Hilda Kuper occupied the major portion of her time. A personal examination of Dr. Kuper's manuscripts in Los Angeles revealed a "truly magnificent" collection of field notes, genealogies, photographs, valuable newspaper indexes, and unpublished articles. Many items, especially the field notes written in pencil on steno pads, were badly in need of preservative measures.

Woodson asked nearby UCLA about preparing the papers for microfilming by the Center for Research Libraries, but the division of costs between the two could not be agreed. Although this was a disappointment, she is hopeful that a new proposal which will be presented at the spring 1991 meeting of the African Studies Association and CRL will be successful. "I will continue this aspect of the project until its completion... I know the significance it represents to the Swazi people and to Hilda Kuper." At Woodson's urging, Dr. Kuper agreed to donate her photographs to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art. It is hoped that eventually UNISWA will receive complimentary copies of all of them.

This "final" phase of the project also saw Woodson complete an inventory and reorganization begun in Africa of the papers of J.S.M. Matsebula, a leading Swazi historian. Another find in the U.S. was a large cache of pre-Independence correspondence, including letters from "banned" people, at the Amisted Research Center in New Orleans.

"The international mails have been kept active between Buffalo and Kwaluseni as (Head of Special Collections) Mr. Dua-Agyemong and I send lists back and forth for checking and ordering."

Although her work on this project must necessarily decrease, Woodson says she will always be involved with Swazi bibliography because of her strong personal connections to the country and research interests in the region. Describing the heartening experience of helping a struggling African nation regain the documentation of its rich history, she reflected: "I found this fellowship to be intellectually invigorating and it was a wonderfully fulfilling year for me. My Swazi colleagues and friends were uniformly friendly and gracious and are sorely missed...I can only hope that I represented something positive to the Swazis...If nothing else, this adventure has made me more resilient and philosophical about dealing with life's petty problems."

"Living abroad, working in a different environment, and observing how others must struggle, forces a readjustment of one's own priorities."

Katherine Van de Vate

Arabic Cataloger, Near East Cataloging Team, Princeton University Library, Princeton, New Jersey.
Destination: Asad National Library, Damascus, Syria

My fellowship was, despite its many difficulties, the most challenging six months of my entire career.

Damascus is one of the world's most ancient cities. For centuries, it has been a trade center and a meeting place for Arab and Western cultures. Sharing the city's skyline are domed churches and mosques with their minarets, and the straight lines of modern buildings, all overshadowed by Mount Qassioun, which lies immediately to the north of the city.

A well equipped new building in Damascus is home to the Asad National Library (ANL). In 1984, it replaced the Zahiriya Library, a medieval building in the old part of the city, as Syria's national library. With a fast-growing collection housed in space that can accommodate two million volumes, and a dynamic director, the Asad National Library has become a catalyst for improving library services in Syria, in addition to being a primary research center and the guardian of the national bibliographic heritage.

Director General Ghassan Lahham's mission during the past six years has been to establish basic policies and consistent procedures for the library in such fundamental areas as acquisitions, preservation, reference, and cataloging. Much progress has already been made, but a shortage of staff trained in library work and difficulties in finding qualified teachers of librarianship have held the library back. Two areas in which the ANL especially needed advice were cataloging and classification. The Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization has recommended that all libraries use the Arabic translation of the *Anglo-American Cataloging Rules* (AACR 2): ANL catalogers required training in its use. The library was already using the *Dewey Decimal Classification* (DDC) for subject arrangement, but it simultaneously employed two different editions of it, the 19th full edition and the Arabic translation of the 11th abridged edition, with confusing results.

Library Fellow Katherine Van de Vate's experience in cataloging Arabic materials, her proficiency in written and spoken Arabic, and her familiarity with the Middle East through travel and study there, were tailor-made for the Asad Library. During a six-month assignment in Damascus, from April through September 1990, she would train cataloging personnel in AACR2 and try to systematize both cataloging and classification procedures.

Van de Vate's fellowship began during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the occasion for thirty days of fasting. Settled into a comfortable apartment only five minutes' walk from the library, she observed daily Islamic life in the ancient capital. In an early letter home, she wrote: "In the older parts of town, a man comes through the streets at 3 a.m., beating a huge drum and shouting, 'Wake up, O sleeper. The One, the Eternal, there is no God but God." She even managed to fast for the last two days of Ramadan, and was duly impressed that the catalogers had been able to concentrate on AACR2 while abstaining from food and drink every day for the previous month.

Although Van de Vate had planned to devote three months each to cataloging and classification, her time with the catalogers stretched to nearly four. Like libraries around the world which adopt AACR2, the ANL had many local variations in cataloging that were inconsistent with one another and with the new cataloging code. The unit had just one copy of the new rules, and most catalogers had received only brief instruction in using them.

The Director of Cataloging and Classification singled out processing of nonbook materials, such as microforms, videos, and maps, as particularly important. After ordering more copies of AACR2, Van de Vate examined relevant categories of nonbook material with small groups

from the ten-member cataloging team. One of the first ice-breaking exercises—and quite a successful one—was to catalog a human being.

Each group would find the appropriate AACR2 rules for cataloging one type of nonbook material and present its results to the entire section. Groups then incorporated their methods into mini cataloging manuals suitable for future training. The department now has logical and consistent written guidelines for using AACR2 with nine classes of nonbook material, including periodicals, sound recordings, microforms, CD-ROMs, and graphic materials. Because the staff also asked about the application of AACR2 to books, Van de Vate offered classes in book cataloging.

As cataloging sessions wound down, it appeared that the goals of firmly establishing AACR2 in the library and standardizing cataloging procedures had been met, "with lots of hard work from the catalogers."

Van de Vate conducted nearly all of her classes in Arabic. "This may have been a bit trying for staff, but it improved my Arabic in a hurry." She continued formal study of the language, which helped in learning the specialized vocabulary required in teaching cataloging and classification.

Thanks to this Library Fellow, the influence of standard international cataloging rules was extended far beyond the ANL. Three times a year, the Asad Library sponsors a month-long training course for librarians from all over the country, most of them from government libraries. The Head of Cataloging teaches the cataloging component. She and Van de Vate spent hours revising the notes for the course to reflect AACR2 and the changes its use had made in cataloging procedures.

The camaraderie and humanistic goals shared by librarians around the world were evident at a lecture Van de Vate gave to the Syrian Library Association (SLA) in July. In "Who is the Librarian—Book Supervisor or Information Specialist?" (later published in the SLA's bulletin) she reviewed many ALA programs and addressed broader issues such as the role of the librarian in supporting education and the importance of shared cataloging and other forms of library cooperation.

There was great interest in the Association's activities, and two members of the audience asked to join ALA afterwards. The United States Information Service in Damascus, which considers the Library Fellows program to be of great value in promoting Syrian-American understanding, donated a year's membership in ALA to the Syrian Library Association.

Van de Vate returned to the principles outlined in her talk many times as classes at the library continued. During her last eight weeks, Dewey Decimal Classification occupied most of her time. By now, teaching in Arabic was a pleasure, and she even began classes with a few lines of Arabic poetry to lighten the mood. Classifying Arabic materials using a scheme devised primarily for U.S. libraries was not an easy task. In addition to the cultural variations in defining and interrelating subjects, publications in Arabic do not lend themselves to simple classification. They often contain several unrelated topics or the musings of one author on many themes and do not fit easily into any category, let alone a particular Dewey class. A further problem is presented by the fact that the class numbers for subjects such as administration are inapplicable to Arabic books.

After debating these differences—often for hours—Van de Vate and the ANL classifiers would try to find an Arab-friendly solution within the framework of DDC. At first, this was difficult because the library was using two editions of Dewey. But by resorting to the 20th edition of DDC and the guide to the use of the 19th edition as authorities, Van de Vate was able to clarify many issues and bring method and order to the work of the classifiers.

"The last two months turned out to be the most productive, successful, and enjoyable part of my fellowship," she wrote in her final report. The classifiers were enthusiastic and very keen to learn. Much progress was made towards giving them a firm understanding of Dewey, teaching them to apply the instructions correctly, and introducing a degree of coordination and unity to their work.

A frenetic final week in Damascus filled with last-minute questions, meetings with Director General Lahham, a party with the classifiers, and a visit to the International Arab Book Fair, organized and held at the ANL, sent Van de Vate on her way back to the U.S. "My fellowship was, despite its many difficulties, the most challenging six months of my entire career," she said in summing up her assignment. "I learned a great deal from the people I taught, and developed a profound sympathy for their difficulties in adapting the tools and techniques of Anglo-American librarianship to their particular circumstances."

Alicia Sabatine

Library Information Specialist, Jefferson County Public School, Golden, Colorado.
Destination: University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica

When she arrived in Kingston, Jamaica, on September 15, 1989, Alicia Sabatine was anticipating a challenging assignment of one academic year at the Department of Library Studies, University of the West Indies (UWI). In addition to her primary charge—to teach two library automation courses—she was to upgrade a small microcomputer laboratory into a full-fledged teaching facility, and to plan its expansion into a Local Area Network (LAN). Also earmarked for this Library Fellow's attention was fostering online expertise in the Caribbean library community through continuing education.

Extensive managerial and training experience in computerized library services had prepared Sabatine well for the tasks ahead. A lack of experience teaching at the University level caused some concern, but as the year progressed, Sabatine reported that she was enjoying the diversity of responsibilities in her post. "I'm amazed at how much I have learned...I only hope the benefit is mutual."

As it turned out, the benefit definitely was mutual. When a delay in funding meant that equipment for the envisioned local network would arrive after Sabatine's fellowship ended in May 1990, Professor Daphne Douglas, Head of the Department of Library Studies, and the Kingston office of the United States Information Service took action. They requested that Sabatine's stay be extended. Her computer skills and teaching abilities would be critical to the success of a computer-oriented teaching environment, they argued. She had done a superb job in helping the UWI Department of Library Studies to pursue existing goals to automate.

The request was approved. After a summer break in her home state of California, Sabatine returned to Jamaica in September 1990 for five more months of teaching, and to put the finishing touches on the new computer network.

Curiosity about library computer applications had been strong when Sabatine first arrived at the University. Not surprisingly, the UWI Department of Library Studies sees the role of information handler as an essential part of overall nation building, and significant for individuals as well.

The University is a regional institution, supported by Jamaica and 15 other governments in the English-speaking Caribbean. Its Department of Library Studies educates information specialists to serve this rich cultural area through a three-year B.A. program with a major in Library Stu lies and a 15-month Master's Program launched during the 1988/1989 academic year. The Department is also strongly committed to continuing education.

High on the list of the school's objectives is to produce graduates who understand the unique cultural, social, and economic factors which affect information services in the Caribbean. Library educators want students to learn a theory of information sharing in the Caribbean context, not just the practice of searching commercial databases.

Students were dedicated and serious, Sabatine was pleased to discover. "Many of the students went from placing their hands on a keyboard for the first time in October '89 to successfully developing database files using a database manager in May 1990," Sabatine reported. Final exam results were evidence of everyone's commitment. She was both proud to read the exams and convinced that each student had acquired a grasp of the potential of automation and the confidence to carry out a computerization plan. To compensate for the lack of hands-on classwork and to help students in the job market, she offered all graduating students a class in Dialog searching.

Continuing success in the classroom, however, depended upon the progress of Sabatine's other major assignment: shaping up the computer lab. Things got off to a slow start. Already in place were an IBM AT and peripherals, various useful software packages, and some demonstration diskettes. More of everything was needed. After consulting with the Head of the University Electronics Unit, Sabatine and Professor Douglas ordered the first new hardware: new compact disk drives, a printer, and another microcomputer.

Software was more elusive. Letters to 17 companies requesting demonstration diskettes produced a batch of product literature instead. But vendors became more generous. The lab eventually received diskettes containing everything from database managers to graphic street finders. Important library indexes such as *Library Literature* and *International Periodicals Directory* arrived on CD-ROM.

a chairperson for personal computer

I have learned that a balance must be struck between wanting to do as much as possible in a highly compressed time frame and holding off on action while learning the context of the information activity."

Sabatine helped install two CD players, a printer, and other equipment, as well as essential software such as a newer version of WordStar, and Ventura, and Harvard Graphics. By May, there were so many databases and diskettes in the lab that another database was needed to provide organized access to them. Students benefited immediately from the transformed computer lab. But other groups within the University and outside it were taking notice as well. This interest brought another dimension of Sabatine's assignment to the forefront.

Her first continuing education endeavor in Jamaica had been a five-day conference for the island's librarians in November 1989 entitled "Microcomputers: Current Applications and Current Awareness." Funded by the Organization of American States, it provided hands-on practice at local computer facilities as well as lectures. In spite of only four weeks' preparation time and problems with mail and telephone contacts, this "baptism by fire" was a great success. It forged strong ties with the local information and computer communities.

When Professor Douglas expressed interest in faculty and staff learning word processing, Sabatine held seminars for them and worked with people individually. Using reference questions asked locally to make training relevant, she taught beginning and advanced Dialog searching to UWI librarians. The National Library of Jamaica was planning to offer a fee-based information service to local business. Sabatine trained staff there in Dialog also. Joining the Jamaican Library Association gave her an excellent overview of local needs.

In Winter 1991, Sabatine organized a successful conference on CD ROM technology. The Jamaica Computer Society asked her to speak on managing technology at its October Annual Conference. And she began writing articles on managing corporate information in a local business magazine, *The Money Index*. "So far the only things left undone are to cure the common cold and find Elvis," she joked. "Other than that, I'm getting everything accomplished."

Directing the implementation of the local area network demanded Sabatine's attention during her final months in the Caribbean. In a long range automation plan for the computer lab, she drew up specifications for a learning resource center using both traditional and electronic information management tools for teaching and administrative tasks. The conversion of the center into a network allowed the linking of five microcomputer workstations for optimum sharing of resources.

Other computers, printers, and software were ordered and installed in the lab as the project reached completion. To maximize the use of the school's exciting new computer teaching environment, Professor Douglas and Sabatine outlined a basic course in computer literacy that will be required of all incoming students.

As 15 months of solid accomplishments, new friendships, and professional and personal growth came to an end, Sabatine looked back on her experiences. There had been the craving for extra chunky peanut butter and satellite broadcasts of Monday Night Football ("I guess some things are just in the American blood.") But she had adjusted to life in a country quite unlike the high tech culture from which she had come and had gained many insights in the process:

"My American-based knowledge had to be stripped of its North American orientation in order to be of value to a small Caribbean island struggling under adverse conditions to participate locally, regionally, and globally in information processing and exchange...I have learned that a balance must be struck between wanting to do as much as possible in a highly compressed time frame, and holding off on action while learning the context of the information activity."

Henry F. Raine

Senior Cataloger, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
Destination: National Library of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

The earthquake that shook New Zealand on a quiet Sunday in May 1990—the largest to hit the country in 22 years—was unsettling for Library Fellow Henry Raine, who was on assignment to the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington at the time. But it could just as well be seen as one more remarkable experience in a fellowship year filled with memorable events.

Whether he was examining an account printed in 1523 of Ferdinand Magellan's South Sea voyages, studying the Maori language, climbing a mountain, or teaching rare book cataloging to librarians from around the country, Raine found himself completely captivated by the history, geography, and unique culture of this majestic Pacific island chain.

He had travelled a quarter of the way around the world to the southern hemisphere to help the Alexander Turnbull Library, housed at the National Library, begin inputting computerized cataloging records for thousands of pre-1801 imprints into the New Zealand Bibliographic Network (NZBN). The Turnbull Library was eager to offer NZBN users access to its superb John Milton Collection, regarded as one of the six best in the world, and to its noted collection of the first printed accounts of major Pacific voyages of exploration.

Because there had been no cataloging of early printed books at the Turnbull Library since the early 1960s, a backlog of close to 3,000 uncataloged works had accumulated. The Library's approximately 9,500 cataloged pre-1801 publications are now being added to the Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalog (ESTC) by the British Library. The Turnbull Library had expected to have a computer tape of its ESTC holdings by the time Raine arrived, but had recently learned that it will not be available until at least 1994.

Raine was an accomplished online cataloger of early materials, having worked with rare books and computer systems at the Library of Congress (LC) before moving to a similar position at the Folger Shakespeare Library. His knowledge of several languages was also an asset, since the Turnbull numbered among its holdings works in French, Dutch, German, Italian, Latin, and Greek, besides English.

The Library Fellow arrived in Wellington on a blustery morning in early October, the beginning of New Zealand's spring. As he analyzed the cataloging project after a day's recuperation from the long trans-Pacific flight, it was immediately apparent that training on the NZBN system was of the first priority. With the help of Moira Long, Special Printed Collections Librarian at the Turnbull, and catalogers in the National Library, he received an intensive course in how to search and input records to the system. National Library catalogers were interested in Raine's experience as an American cataloger. He discovered that the Library uses AACR2 and the LC Name Authority File in cataloging, and also subscribes to LC's MARC tape service. "Before coming here, I had not realized the extent to which the Library of Congress influences catalogers' lives, even as far away as New Zealand."

As Raine learned the National Library's routines, he and Long considered what features of the pre-1801 collection to include in online records. In accordance with current cataloging policy, they chose the LC Bibliographic Description of Rare Books and AACR2 for the basic record. But to enhance the value of the collection for research, information on illustrations, bindings, and provenance, as well as copy specific data, would be added where appropriate.

Feeling "fairly competent" as a National Library cataloger, Raine confronted the early imprints in the backlog. Because of the delay in obtaining a tape for other Turnbull holdings from the British Library, his aim was now to input original cataloging to the NZNB for the uncataloged works. The lengthier rare book records created several problems in the network system. NZBN programmers resolved some of them, but several required major system changes that were impossible at the time.

Raine realized early on that he could not complete original cataloging for the entire backlog. In an attempt to ensure the continuation of the project after his departure, he decided to offer a course in rare book cataloging to National Library catalogers in May. He had also instructed Long in cataloging early imprints, and by April, she was working on the Turnbull volumes as well.

This Library Fellow's presence in the National Library greatly stimulated interest in rare books. He was interviewed on national radio, an article about him appeared in the *Wellington Evening Post*, and *Te Puna Matauranga*, the newsletter sent to all New Zealand libraries, featured the early imprints project in a quarterly issue. The Head of Cataloging at the National

interviewed on national radio

Library was supportive of Raine's proposed rare books course and encouraged many of her staff to take part.

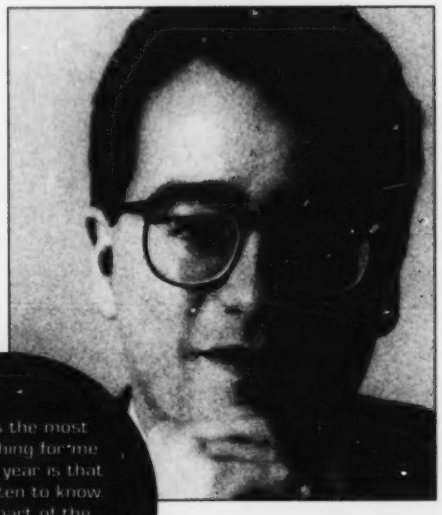
Although the May cataloging course decreased Raine's time with the rare books backlog, its long term benefits undoubtedly outweighed the drawbacks. The course was an overwhelming success. Eleven National Library catalogers attended the five days of instruction, which began with "How to look at a rare book," and ended with "Special and copy-specific access points." Each participant worked with two rare books and was encouraged to input the records to the NZBN at the end of the week.

"The really positive thing that came out of this course is that some of the catalogers expressed a desire to continue working with rare books." Everyone agreed that the Turnbull cataloging project should go on after Raine's departure, but other demands on the catalogers and funding shortages made that unlikely unless further financial and staff support could be found.

Raine instigated talks between the National Library's Head of Cataloging and the Turnbull Library Deputy Chief Librarian about allowing more catalogers to handle the early imprints. They agreed that the Cataloging Department would complete an average of three pre-1801 books per week for the Turnbull Library, and also provide network level review of all rare book records added to the NZNB. "This was very good news," Raine remarked in his final report.

Throughout New Zealand's temperate summer, from December to February, and into the autumn and winter months, Library Fellow Raine had continued an investigation of the country's main islands begun shortly after his arrival. He enjoyed excursions to Lake Taupo, a huge volcanic body of water in the center of the North Island, and to the impressive South Island of which he wrote: "How will I ever want to leave such a beautiful place?" During the winter, he ventured farther afield to French-influenced New Caledonia and Vanuatu for the warmer tropical weather. "I have eaten coconut crab and flying fox," he wrote from Vanuatu, "but I think I like the French bread and croissants better."

To capitalize on the burgeoning interest in rare books in New Zealand libraries, Raine scheduled another cataloging course for late August. This time, librarians from five institutions and catalogers from the National Library took part. The success of this course equalled that of the first and further prepared the way for New Zealand catalogers to start implementing international standards in rare book cataloging, and to coordinate the cataloging of rare books in the country. Now aiding that effort is a manual compiled by Raine for use with the LC Bibliographic Description of Rare



"Perhaps the most valuable thing for me about this year is that I have gotten to know another part of the world. Now New Zealand will always feel like home to me."

Books. Moira Long described it as "a model of clarity and precision that will be an indispensable tool for all rare book catalogers."

Other activities during Raine's fellowship year included visits to rare book collections in Auckland and Dunedin, where he saw illuminated manuscripts, early medical books, and incunabula. He spoke to several groups about the Folger Shakespeare Library, with the benefit of slides sent from Washington. An interest in Maori culture led him to complete two 10-week courses in the Maori language. A final rare book workshop presented at the New Zealand Library Association's 1990 National Seminar in September completed the varied responsibilities of his fellowship period. Throughout the year, he noted, "People at the National Library went out of their way to do everything they could for me, within budgetary and staffing constraints." With his departure from New Zealand drawing near, this Library Fellow expressed the hope that "my training and other activities will have a positive long term effect on the general state of rare book cataloging here...The fellowship was a tremendous experience for me, both personally and professionally. Perhaps the most valuable thing for me about this year is that I have gotten to know another part of the world...Now New Zealand will always feel like home to me."

Linda E. Williamson

Former Documents Librarian, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; recently appointed U.S. Studies Librarian, Rhodes House Library, University of Oxford, England.
Destination: University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

American studies scholars in Ireland had a potential goldmine of research material in their midst. At University College Dublin (UCD) Library were thousands of U.S. official publications on paper and microfiche, dating from the 1800s to the present day. They reputedly made up the oldest continuing collection of U.S. government documents in the European Economic Community outside the United Kingdom.

Gaining access to this valuable resource was a problem. The documents had originally been received at the National Library of Ireland through the U.S. International Exchange Service Program. When the massive store of materials (100 cubic meters) was transferred to UCD in the early 1980s, the plan was to organize it, inventory it, and make it publicly available. Limited resources at UCD resulted in limited staffing and, hence, limited progress in this effort. Most recently, a graduate in library science had been appointed to work full-time, with part-time assistants, on the project.

What had been achieved by early 1990 was the processing of *Congressional Record* and *Serial Set* volumes from 1925 on, the sorting of major law report series, and the filing of current microfiche. What remained were the earlier *Congressional Record* and *Serial Set* volumes, additional Congressional material, and the bulk of Executive Branch documents on paper, as well as retrospective microfiche. These were, for the most part, unsorted, unweeded, and still in their original shipping cartons.

The enormity of the task and the six-month timeframe, from April through September 1990, called for adjustment of the original project goals. Inventorying and publicizing of the collection could not be done until cohesive portions of it had been unboxed and processed. Library Fellow Linda Willlamson's 18 years of experience dealing with government documents made her a good match for the job for organizing this agglomeration of paper and fiche.

The journey to Ireland proved more eventful than Williamson had expected. Her ten-year-old car, packed to the roof, broke down en route from Chicago to Tennessee, where she was going to visit relatives before her departure. With a snowstorm blowing in from the Plains and no chance of repairs being done for several days, she abandoned the car just north of Indianapolis. The rest of the journey was made by rental car, after a kindly taxi driver helped shift her worldly belongings from one vehicle to another.

At Heathrow Airport, London, where she had to clear Customs, officials insisted upon x-raying her microcomputer before she could continue on to Ireland. In a panic, she copied all the files from the internal disc onto diskette—and just made her flight. After these adventures, Baile Atha Cliath (Dublin) was a welcome sight with its spring flowers and greenery.

Williamson's first month in the Emerald Isle was a busy one. By a fortunate coincidence, the annual Irish National and University Library Staffs Conference was taking place near Dublin. There she met several key people whom she would later visit to publicize the UCD documents collection. The newly arrived Library Fellow also spoke that month at the Irish Association of American Studies Conference in Limerick, outlining the aims of the UCD project. This group of some 40 researchers from both the Republic and Northern Ireland expressed great interest in the work.

The magnitude of what needed to be accomplished soon became apparent. At the suggestion of Sean Phillips, University Librarian, Williamson spent the first two weeks of her assignment assessing the state of the U.S. publications collection. She then recommended processing those parts which could be handled expediently and were of the most critical research value, and estimated the amount of staff time and shelving space that would be required to complete the project.

Her figures were daunting: interfiling 100 linear feet of retrospective microfiche with current fiche would take 1200 staff hours; unboxing and organizing pre-1925 *Congressional Record* and *Serial Set* volumes would demand some 600 hours; 800 hours would be required to process Congressional hearings and committee prints.

The total was 2600 hours, or 1.75 years of one staff member's time. The Library also had to find 1400 linear feet of shelving. Lurking in the background was the enormous group on non-Congressional publications; only about 8 percent of them had ever been unpacked. This material was considered less critical for the purposes of Williamson's objectives, but she estimated the time needed to organize it: 4500 hours.

In order to finish the targeted objectives during her six-month term, Williamson asked that the library science graduate already at work be retained beyond his May departure date, that several full-time library assistants be hired, and that a CD-ROM player be dedicated to the project. This latter was needed for the GPO CAT/PAC Monthly Catalog compact disc, on loan from Marcive, which was to be used to find Superintendent of Documents (Sudocs) classification numbers for post June 1976 Congressional materials.

The UCD Library supported the undertaking wholeheartedly. By May, Williamson reported that "things were moving along." She was enjoying long walks to campus and was recovering from a spring cold which introduced to her the medicinal properties of hot Irish whiskeys —"It almost makes it worthwhile being sick." Two students were now working a total of 13 hours a day filing microfiche and searching for Sudocs numbers on a microcomputer with a CD-ROM drive. The library science graduate's contract had been extended by one month.

The momentum increased, with as many as ten students working on the project during the summer, the library graduate staying on through August, and additional shelving being erected. Williamson could happily announce by summer's end that a once seemingly insurmountable task was ahead of schedule. "Credit must be given to the Library Administration's generous and timely allocation of resources," she noted.

"I've served as catalyst, planner, and problem-solver, and received full support from the Library Administration in terms of staffing and equipment. The time has been enjoyable and rewarding."

Her own role in the project varied: she assessed tasks, recommended action, did time-motion studies, trained workers, made decisions on document retention, solved day-to-day problems, and answered questions about the collection.

One question came from the nascent Irish Environmental Protection Agency: Did the UCD Library have U.S. documents relating to protection of the environment? Williamson prepared a detailed overview on those U.S. agencies which issue such publications and listed the types of materials available at UCD. She also visited libraries in Dublin to discuss the documents reorganization, among them Trinity College, the National Library, and the Royal College of Surgeons.

Every one of the objectives this Library Fellow had drawn up in April concerning the most critically needed research materials in the documents collection had been met by August. Newly arranged, classified, and accessible to scholars were 79,000 microfiche; 9,000 volumes of *Congressional Record* and the *Serial Set;* 8,900 volumes of Congressional hearings and committee prints; and 2,500 volumes of law reports.

One of Williamson's most valuable contributions to the rejuvenation of the U.S. publications housed at UCD had been her judgements about which materials to keep and which to discard. This she continued to do for the balance of her time in Dublin, making as big a dent as possible in the huge backlog of Executive Branch publications.

She also helped track down elusive Sudocs numbers, straightened out some problematic microfiche series, established procedures for processing current hard-copy documents, and recommended acquisitions of secondary sources to enhance use of the collection.

"The project has been such a nice experience for me," Williamson wrote to Librarian Phillips in September. "I couldn't have asked for greater support for it. That support allowed my original objectives to be accomplished ahead of schedule."

Faye Powell

Social Sciences Librarian, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.
Destination: American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, India

Library Fellow Faye Powell knew that life in India would be completely different from life in her Portland, Oregon, home, but she was unprepared for the amazing blend of sights, sounds, and smells that greeted her. Stopping first in New Delhi on the way to her assignment in Hyderabad, she saw an elephant being led along the main thoroughfare, and was astonished by the traffic in the bustling capital:

"Every sort of vehicle is on the streets, vying for every available space. Buses, cars, auto-rickshaws, motor scooters, bicycles, and carts drawn by water buffaloes, all pass one another in ways that seem nothing short of miraculous. And pedestrians cross with aplomb through it all. Not to mention the ever-present sacred cows that meander along the sides of the streets and through the traffic fearlessly—never getting hit. My conclusion is that driving, riding, or walking in India is a spiritual experience. I have now relaxed because I realize the apparent chaos from my perspective is a well-understood system for Indians."

During her short stay in India, Powell worked at the American Studies Research Centre (ASRC) in Hyderabad, for six months from October 1989 to mid-April 1990 as an ALA Library Fellow.

Hyderabad is a regional center of close to four million people located in the huge Deccan Plain of south central India. The American Studies Research Centre at Osmania University in the city has the largest American Studies collection in Asia. Both Indian and international scholars regard its 145,000 books, periodicals, microforms, maps, and recordings as a treasure trove of U.S. information unparalleled in that part of the world.

The Centre's holdings had emphasized American literature, history, and the humanities in the past, but researchers were lobbying for more materials in the social sciences. Although there was little extra funding available, ASRC Director Dr. James Björkman agreed to expand the collection in selected subject areas. First on his agenda, however, were an evaluation of the library's current holdings and a careful determination of what was needed to form a core group of social sciences resources.

With her strong background in the social sciences, including a Master's in anthropology, and the benefit of experience as a trainer in a major collection assessment project in the Northwest, Library Fellow Powell was the right person for the job. She would analyze the ASRC inventory, select publications to fill the gaps, and train staff to use the new resources in reference and other library services.

Arriving in Hyderabad on a warm Sunday morning in late October, Powell was pleased to find that she would be living in an apartment with a breezy veranda, a coveted commodity in the subtropical climate. "I sip my morning tea there and enjoy the view of coconut fronds and other tropical foliage," she wrote in an early letter home. Social activities were numerous during her first days in the city because of Devali, the annual Hindu "Festival of Lights." "Hospitality is one of the hallmarks of Indian culture, a fact I was aware of before my arrival and can unreservedly confirm."

After a week of meeting staff and sizing up the reference tools and the selection procedure in the library, Powell set to work on a collection assessment plan. There was plenty of assistance available for the essential tasks involved in the evaluation, and she detected in the staff "a willingness to help in every way." The ASRC environment was lively and invigorating, and the professionalism of personnel was impressive: "The Deputy Librarian has a Ph.D. in Library Science, and the Librarian and Assistant Librarian in charge of periodicals are both working on theirs. The other librarians all have Masters in Library Science."

A book shelflist count was quickly carried out to begin the formal collection assessment. Powell then sampled the holdings in selected Dewey classification numbers to ascertain which areas of political science, economics, sociology, and twentieth-century history had deficiencies. Concurrently, she checked the ASRC inventory against subject bibliographies and faculty reading lists she had brought from Portland State University. Classical works and authors in the social sciences were already well-represented, she discovered. A large amount of retrospective acquisition would not be necessary.

Next, periodicals, indexes, and abstracts were measured against those cited in *Social Science Index* and authoritative selection tools. As the gathering of data for the overall collection assessment continued, Powell also compiled lists of books recommended for purchase, with the help of publishers' catalogs brought from the U.S. and a local vendor who visited the library weekly.

the Library of congress

In a summary report to Director Björkman, she recommended that the ASRC increase its periodicals, abstracts, and indexes covering the social sciences. She suggested the library consider CD-ROM databases, in light of prohibitive telecommunications costs in India, and urged development of resource-sharing tools and agreements with other libraries.

This Library Fellow received valuable feedback about the research needs of Centre users from the scholarly community. A three-day conference of Indian political scientists at the ASRC in November alerted her to contemporary issues and authors in citizenship and democratic theory.

ASRC seminars for researchers on various American Studies topics provided information for collection building during Powell's tenure. For the African-American Women Writers seminar, she examined the current literature on African-American feminist issues in a well-received presentation. At Portland State University, Powell is responsible for reference and acquisitions in women's studies, among other subjects. Individual visiting scholars also advised her on topics of concern to the research community.

By mid-December, Library Fellow Powell was ready for a weekend away from crowded Hyderabad. Her destination was Nagajuna Sagar ("sagar" means lake), 150 kilometers from the city and "like a piece of the Puget Sound dropped into the middle of the Indian subcontinent." She found the beautiful blue waters, jagged shoreline, low mountains, and solitude refreshing.

The Indian Association of Special Libraries and Information Centres met in Jaipur in late December. At the conference Powell was introduced to professionals from all kinds of libraries and learned much about Indian library issues. She was invited to speak to both the Hyderabad and Madras Library Associations about the objectives of her fellowship as well as international librarianship.

While visiting libraries in the Hyderabad and Delhi areas, Powell often met aware and highly educated librarians who could not take advantage of new technologies and trends in services due to severe funding shortages. For example, the Osmania University Library heroically catalogs in 15 different languages without the assistance of automation or shared cataloging.

While library instruction is seen as increasingly important in institutions of higher education in India, it is not yet an established part of their library service. Indian librarians were interested in the types of services U.S. librarians provide. Powell lectured at the Osmanian School of Library Science on this topic and subsequently published a paper entitled "American Libraries; High Tech, High Touch" in the *Indian Library Association Bulletin.*

"Whatever I am able to contribute here is being more than returned to me in the expansion of my own knowledge and appreciation of this part of the world and of the library profession in India."

Funding for new acquisitions was a worrisome subject during the final months of Powell's assignment at the ASRC as well. All of the data for social sciences collection assessment had been compiled by January, and she spent part of the next few months in the time-consuming task of analyzing it. Her results would be critically important in selecting new materials for purchase while she was in the country, and for guiding the staff after she had gone.

However, because funds were not forthcoming, Powell found it difficult to set priorities for purchasing various formats or to order on a large scale. Staff training in the use of social science materials was put on hold. Although the outlook was more promising by the time she left India, a final decision had not yet been made.

In spite of frustrations such as this one, Library Fellow Powell described her experience at the ASRC and her introduction to one of the world's ancient cultures as exceedingly rich, varied, and rewarding, both professionally and personally. "Whatever I was able to contribute to ASRC was more than returned to me in the expansion of my own knowledge and appreciation of this part of the world and of the library profession in India."

Karen J. Starr

Former Assistant Professor (CD-ROM Librarian), Kerr Library, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon; currently Networking Consultant, Idaho State Library, Boise, Idaho.
Destination: Norwegian School of Library and Information Science, Oslo, Norway

"The fellowship was productive and a good experience overall. I will be maintaining contact with my Norwegian colleagues. Perhaps someday we will have the opportunity to develop some cross-cultural projects."

For someone fond of the outdoors like Library Fellow and avid skier Karen Starr, spending nearly a year in a country renowned for hiking, skiing, boating, and other fresh-air activities, was an appealing prospect. Norway, with its pine-covered hills, rugged mountains, and sparkling glacial streams flowing into spectacular fjords, would be her home from September 1989 through June 1990.

Starr's assignment at the Norwegian School of Library and Information Science (NSLIS) was to bring the country's library professionals and educators closer to the online mainstream. Faced with the confusing array of computerized information products issuing from the U.S. in recent years, the Norwegian library community was feeling strongly the discrepancy between availability and accessibility of information.

Librarians have the technical means to retrieve computerized data both online and offline. But erratic publicizing and marketing of American information products in the Nordic countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland) has put them at a disadvantage.

The problem is one of communication. Norwegian librarians are not aware of all the databases and formats available, or of the vast number of commercial and private producers. Their requests to U.S. vendors for samples and brochures often go unanswered. Some professionals are not familiar with U.S. interlibrary loan (ILL) procedures, and cannot easily obtain documents cited in indexes.

A specialist in computerized information retrieval for 13 years, Library Fellow Starr had mastered a broad range of U.S. products in many formats in her work as a librarian and consultant. Her experience was well suited for the library school's ambitious fellowship plans.

NSLIS Director Tor Henriksen above all wanted Starr to report on how U.S. online products are being used in Norway. Lecturing to students, advising faculty, and conducting seminars for practicing librarians on database access were other responsibilities.

A gracious welcome awaited the American Library Fellow upon her arrival in Oslo in early September. The stately capital, founded in the eleventh century, lies at the end of the Oslo Fjord and is surrounded by high hills blanketed with thick fir forests. Installed in a pleasant apartment just fifteen minutes' walk from the school, by the next day, a Sunday, Starr was already out hiking in the woods north of the city.

That week, armed with the few "tools of the trade" that had arrived by mail in Oslo before she did, the Library Fellow tackled her assignment. She proposed a study —approved by the NSLIS—of the European information industry of the 1990s and its implications for U.S. vendors, particularly in the Nordic region. In this major undertaking, Starr assessed the presence of U.S. systems in Europe, the state of the online industry in the Nordic countries, and the coverage of Nordic research in U.S. indexes.

The NSLIS was eager to inform students, faculty and Norwegian librarians about specific U.S.-produced items: Starr outlined eight series of lectures on various topics. The school selected CD-ROM and optical disk technology, and online science reference for its continuing education program. The other six seminars could be used as needed. They covered U.S. government documents online; electronic communications; the H.W. Wilson indexes; resources for North American studies; computerized business information; and using ILL to obtain U.S. documents. Early in her fellowship, Starr guest lectured in the library school

on CD-ROM and comparative librarianship, and directed students in online searching exercises. Because most of her teaching would occur in the New Year, Starr spent her first four months in Oslo preparing lectures and doing research for the information industry report.

Coping with life in the fourth most expensive city in the world after Tokyo, Sophia, and Osaka, was a challenge for Starr. "Nights out in Oslo are limited," she reported, "but I have managed to visit most of the important museums and have covered a good share of the city on foot." Library school staff were generous in contributing to her "cultural education." Norwegian food was of particular interest. She found cloudberries delightful, and noted that fish was still set out to dry in the air as it was centuries ago.

This Library Fellow was determined to create an environment rich in online resources in the library school, although there was little funding available. She first put the school on mailing lists of U.S. vendors without European offices. Requests to companies for donations were extremely successful. Books and journals, CD-ROM databases and user aids, training manuals, and thesauri for use in searching such subjects as American Studies, music, medicine, and numerous sciences arrived steadily throughout her ten-month tenure. "It feels good to walk through the library and watch the students and faculty using the CD-ROM indexes," she wrote at the time.

Because of interest in interlibrary loan between Norway and the U.S., Starr recommended ILL information from such sources as OCLC, RLIN, NTIS, and the Center for Research Libraries, as well as data on copyright regulations and document delivery services. She obtained the ALA ILL loan policies directory, which deals with loans to foreign libraries. These materials were deposited in the NSLIS library and an article in *Bok oq Bibliotek,* Norway's national library journal, was planned.

The holidays slipped by as Starr prepared for a busy schedule in the New Year. Early January brought her first continuing education seminar for the NSLIS. Demand was high for the three-day course on CD-ROM. Starr lectured on the sources for CD-ROM information, products, and networks in the U.S., Europe, and some Nordic countries. She also addressed planning and designing CD-ROM service in the library. Participants received bibliographies, addresses, and checklists on planning, evaluation, and service design.

Close on the heels of this highly successful event came another three-day seminar on computerized natural science reference, including patent and document delivery data. Again, Starr covered the field, using 150 pages of notes and materials donated from several vendors. So well-received was this course that it may have contributed to the school's decision to re-establish a science reference class terminated five years before.

A breathtaking Norwegian vista was the backdrop for a continuing education course in Molde, on the west coast. Here Starr presented an update of her earlier CD-ROM seminar. Librarians were enthusiastic about the subject and the regional locale. Organizers had thoughtfully arranged for her hotel room to face the local fjord and the 48 mountain peaks on the other side. "The Molde region is spectacular and easily runs the Puget Sound competition," she wrote.

Starr continued to gather data for her study of European systems. At the Oslo Online conference she met members of the Nordic online industry and was introduced to IANI (Intelligent Access to Nordic Information), a gateway system. She talked with Norway's national librarian and with librarians daily involved in online searching. A short trip to Stockholm for "Info-On-Line 90" produced meetings with key figures in the online community there and a chance to see the impressive exhibits. At a library near Oslo, she studied Helecon, a CD-ROM database of European business literature.

The academic year and Starr's fellowship period were coming to a close. In early June, she summed up her ten months' experience as a Library Fellow in a talk to the Norwegian Online User's Group. Before heading back to the U.S., she visited library schools and computer centers in Sweden and Denmark to assess the use of online and CD-ROM products in libraries there. Now in progress are reports on CD-ROM, online systems, the European community, and Nordic librarianship.

Reflecting later on a fruitful time in a fascinating and demanding culture, Starr had this to say: "I left Europe on June 29th with a sense of satisfaction and a positive feeling that the fellowship had fulfilled its original intent albeit with some modifications....I will be maintaining contact with my Norwegian colleagues. Perhaps someday we will have the opportunity to develop some cross cultural projects."

Barbara Kile

Director, Division of Government Publications and Special Resources, The Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, Texas.
Destination: National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China

What would turn out to be five months packed with teaching, travelling, and consulting for Library Fellow Barbara Kile began on a more relaxed note. The Lunar New Year was approaching when Kile arrived in Taipei, Taiwan, in early January 1990, on assignment to the National Central Library (NCL). As the people of the city prepared for this most festive and colorful of Asian holidays, the pace of work at the library slowed.

High on this Library Fellow's agenda before the Year of the Snake ended, however, was to meet staff members and familiarize herself with the NCL. She quickly made new acquaintances and discovered an impressive array of physical facilities and collections.

Taiwan's national library is housed in a bright and modern highrise building overlooking the imposing Chiang Kai-shek Memorial in south Taipei. With more than 1.5 million books, periodicals, and nonbook materials in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and a number of Western languages in its collections, as well as government documents, rare books, rubbings, and scrolls, the NCL is one of the leading libraries in Asia.

Kile's focus of activity as a Library Fellow was government information, the area of her expertise. NCL former Director Dr. Chen-ku Wang outlined a threefold objective for the project. She would help organize and develop the U.S., United Nations, and intergovernmental agency documents collections; train staff in managing documents; and evaluate existing and potential computer applications for them.

Early in her assignment, Kile surveyed the workflow of the Government Documents Division, noting ample shelving space for the collection and roomy work areas for ten staff members. About 3,000 documents titles were displayed in the division's reading room; the rest were housed in closed stacks. She noted that manual processing demanded a great deal of staff time and hoped that CD-ROM players spied elsewhere in the library could be used to search the Marcive *Monthly Catalog* disc for Sudoc numbers. There was a backlog of 8,000 unprocessed U.S. publications.

From January 26-31, however, all work halted as the Lunar Year of the Horse was ushered in. The Library Fellow's formal introduction to the staff occurred at a gala New Year's banquet in the library cafeteria, which was gaily decorated with red tablecloths, paper firecrackers, and good luck symbols. After a delightful ten-course Chinese dinner, she returned to her temporary suburban home on Yangming shan, a mountain overlooking Taipei, unable to eat another bite.

Things soon returned to normal, and Kile plunged into an ambitious schedule of instructional sessions on documents. Four general classes spaced out over a three-month period were designed to acquaint all interested library staff with government publications. They covered documents acquisition, cataloging, reference tools, and collection administration.

"Each meeting attracted some 20-30 people and generated a few questions," Kile remarked. To interact more with librarians outside the documents division, she eventually visited every department in the library, answering numerous questions about documents and other aspects of library service.

Each Wednesday morning, Kile met with the documents staff for intensive study periods that went into much greater depth. Librarians from both NCL's Reference Department and National Taiwan University attended as well.

The weekly documents classes were structured around four main categories: technical report literature, the legislative process, treaties, and miscellanea. Within each category, Kile gave three to four presentations in which she zeroed in on specific items such as *Index Medicus* and Environmental Protection Agency technical reports, Congressional publications and "How a bill becomes a law," the U.S. Code, United Nations treaties, and definitions of economic terminology. A discussion of "homework" assignments took up the beginning of the hour.

the Lunar Year of the horse

These tutorials—13 in all—had a pleasant gastronomic aspect. In spirit with the enjoyment of food so strongly emphasized in Chinese culture, Kile on occasion prepared such American delicacies as brownies, pralines, and banana bread for her students. Chinese staff members reciprocated with fresh fruit, tea, and Tsung-tsu. Sharing food created a relaxed, informal atmosphere in the classes which led to conversations about American libraries and culture and promoted a feeling of camaraderie between instructor and pupils.

Becoming more familiar with the documents staff and their departmental routines enabled Kile to suggest changes in certain procedures that freed some of their time for other activities. Librarians were interested in outreach to potential users of the collection and in using new technology, especially CD-ROMs. At one of the last Wednesday morning meetings, Kile demonstrated CD-ROM equipment with the Congressional Information Service disc, *Congressional Masterfile*. Although a CD-ROM player for use in the documents division never materialized, librarians were able to use one in the Catalog Department for several hours each week to help reduce the document backlog.

A good deal of this Library Fellow's time outside of teaching was spent visiting libraries near Taipei. These short trips gave her a unique perspective on the diverse library collections and services available in the area. Some libraries were doing innovative things with management and access, she observed, but there seemed to be little "networking" among libraries or librarians around the city.

Opportunities occasionally arose for Kile to offer her expertise in managing government publications to other Asian library groups. An address to the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific on computerization of U.S. government information generated keen interest in CD-ROM technology. Within this group, the degree of automation ranged from a computerless one-person library in Western Samoa to the sophisticated Legislative Yuan information system. Lectures to library school faculty and students at National Taiwan University and Tamkang University staff about acquiring and handling documents were also well-received.

Kile's work in Taipei culminated in her giving the keynote address at a mid-May workshop on "Management and Use of Government Publications." Held at NCL and attended by professional staff from many types of libraries across Taiwan, the event was cosponsored by the National Central Library and the Chinese Library Association. Because this workshop was their first chance to focus collective attention on documents, librarians were eager to share information.

In her keynote address, Kile stressed the importance of providing maximum access to government publications through a strong public service orientation, a goal she has been devoted to throughout her library career. (As she left for Taiwan in January, she learned that the ALA Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) had chosen her to receive its "Documents to the People" award.)

The NCL has a strong commitment to maintaining and preserving its collections, she later remarked. An equally firm interest in reference and outreach services and the use of technological innovations would be ideal. "Perhaps 'Documents to the People' will become a useful phrase among Chinese librarians. If that happens, I will know my fellowship was successful! I hope the workshop and my activities at the National Central Library will be just the beginning of a further dialogue on this subject."

The hospitality and friendliness of the library community in Taipei left a lasting impression on this Library Fellow. Many special gatherings—from teas to 12-course banquets—were held in her honor. At a farewell lunch, she received an appropriate memento of her assignment: an album of photographs taken during her stay.

"From the comments I have received as I was leaving Taiwan, I think the information I shared and my lecturing and teaching about government documents were useful. The real test of the success of my work at the National Central Library will be the planning and programs that ensue."

Acknowledgements

This report is a tribute to the adaptable, adventurous, and resilient individuals profiled on the preceding pages. Their creativity and enthusiasm enabled them to succeed in a new environment and make invaluable contributions to international librarianship. They expanded their own horizons and narrowed the gaps in our global village.

The host institutions also deserve special thanks. They opened not only their workplaces, but also their homes and hearts to the Fellows. To name just a few, the following individuals provided outstanding support to the Fellows:

Professor Daphne Douglas, Head of the Department of Library Studies, the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica; Mathokoza Nhlapo, former University Librarian, University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni, Swaziland; Sean Phillips, University Librarian, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland; Tor Henriksen, Director, Norwegian School of Library and Information Studies, Oslo, Norway; Chung-sen Yang, Director, National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China; Dr. James Björkman, Director, American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, India; Ghassan Lahham, Director General, Asad National Library, Damascus, Syria; and Moira Long, Special Printed Collections Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand.

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Finally, in preparing this final report, Susan Brandehoff ably sythesized the reports and the fellows' correspondence to produce this readable and lucid commentary. Natalie Wargin used her remarkable creative skills to design this handsome report showcasing the Fellows' experiences. These individuals made this report possible.

The dedicated assistance of all these people and many more unnamed made these projects successful. While it is difficult to judge the overall effectiveness or lasting significance of these projects, I hope this report provides an honest and lively profile of each Fellows' experience. I know these experiences have enriched and broadened the Fellows. I also hope the experiences have helped to increase international understanding.

Robert P. Doyle

Robert P. Doyle
American Library Association

The 1989-90 Library Fellows attend an orientation session in Washington, D.C., before departing for their overseas assignments. They are (sitting, l to r): Karen J. Starr; Dorothy C. Woodson; Linda Eileen Williamson; Barbara G. Kile; Janet M. Gilligan, USIA Regional Library Officer for Northern Europe.

Standing in the second row (l to r): Robert P. Doyle, American Library Association; Thomas J. Galvin, American Library Association; Henry F. Raine; Katherine Van de Vate; Faye Powell; Alicia Sabatine; Helen Amabile, Deputy Chief, USIA Library Programs Division; and Donald Hausrath, Chief, USIA Library Programs Division.

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The

1989-90

Library/Book

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Administered by the

American

Library Association

Henry [Raine] Hills made an invaluable contribution not only to the National Library but to all New Zealand rare book collections. He has been an excellent ambassador for the ALA and for his country. All the staff were very sorry to say goodbye to such a valued colleague and we wish him well in his future.

Moira M. Long, Special Printed Collections Librarian, Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Wellington

Ms. Sabatini has done a superb job in helping the University of the West Indies, Library Studies Department move into the age of automation. She has earned the respect of the department administration as well as her students, and has demonstrated sensative and strong people oriented skills. - Carol A. Polk, Cultural Affairs Officer, United States Information Service, Kingston, Jamaica

We are excitedly preparing for what I am sure will be an historic day when Dr. Hilda Kuper officially presents her papers to the University of Swaziland. I feel very sad that Dorothy C. Woodson will not be here to witness the occasion after the great amount of work she has put into and is continuing to make towards the whole Swazi materials project. - Mathokoza Nhlapo, Former University Librarian, University of Swaziland, Kwaluseni, Swaziland

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